

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

Executive Committee Minutes

Friday, July 14, 2006, 12 noon EST

Attending: *Officers:* Kevin O'Rell (Chair), Bea James (Secretary), and *Members:* Dan Giacomini (Materials), Julie Weisman (Handling), and Michael Lacy (Livestock) **Sitting In:** Joe Smillie, Kevin Engelbert NOP **Staff:** Valerie Frances and Mark Bradley **Absent:** Andrea Caroe (Vice-Chair, CAC), Gerald Davis (Crops), and Rigo Delagado (Policy Development)

1. Call to Order - Kevin
2. Approve agenda - all
3. Secretary's report - Bea
4. Chair's report - Kevin
 - a. Announcements
5. NOP update - dockets still held up by OGC or OMB
6. Continue discussions re Issues/Petitions/recommendations for October meeting by Committee
 - a. Crops Committee – GD
New Petitioned Materials
Recommendation on compost tea, dehydrated manures & vermiculture
Others?
 - b. Livestock Committee – ML
Aquaculture Working Group
Pasture
Origin of Livestock
Oxytocin & Ivermectin
 - c. Handling Committee – JW
Commercial Availability on 606
Colors – deferred vote and new petitions
Ag/NonAg reco
Pet food task force
Petitioned Materials
 - d. Materials Committee – NO/DG
Syn/NonSyn reco
Review of priorities per work plan
 - e. Policy Development Committee – RD
New member guide
Board Policy Manual updates/revisions
 - f. Compliance, Accreditation & Certification - AC
Retailer Question
Recommendation re certificate format
Peer review
7. October Meeting
8. Other business - all
9. Adjourn - all

1. Call to Order - There was not a quorum. KO announced that DG will now be the Materials Chair and NO will be the Vice-chair of that committee. KO wants to make sure how to help DG in this transition and get him up to speed on committee priorities. ML called in at 12:30. Now have quorum.

2. Approve agenda - BJ 1st, DG 2nd, All

3. Secretary's report – Approve June EC Minutes BJ, DG 2nd, All – also need to review and approve April and July at next meeting. VF has not yet revamped April's EC minutes and BJ would also like to check-in regarding revised approach to summary of meeting transcripts.

4. Chair's report - Kevin – ML motioned for meeting 1 ½ hours, and in August, JW 2nd, All

5. NOP update - dockets still held up by OGC or OMB – Livestock docket is coming out on Monday, July 17th. Working on pasture proposed rule, feels everyone will like it. Had every intention on getting it out prior to October meeting, and hoping to still do so. Timing is being thrown off by Harvey motioning on food contact substances. The motion is that NOP did not address the court's issues on food contact substances and we are kicking around ideas on this, but cannot comment more.

JS raised concern regarding when is NOP policy really NOP policy? BJ asked that that be dealt with conference call on CAC in order to stay on track with this call's agenda.

6. Continue discussions re Issues/Petitions/recommendations for October meeting by Committee

a. Crops Committee – GD – not on call

See proposed workplan: New Petitioned Materials, Recommendation on compost tea, dehydrated manures & vermiculture; Others?

b. Livestock Committee – ML

* Aquaculture Working Group – JS, AC and DG are working on a draft recommendation regarding the AWG report by August 11th – Next meeting of LC is July 26th at noon.

* Pasture – (see MB's response under NOP Update on Pasture Proposed Rule)

* Origin of Livestock – Working on an ANPR on dairy herd conversion. DG asked about antibiotics in calves and the emails from NOP that were circulated. MB does not want this to be viewed as a change of policy and so this is the reason has not circulated it widely. Once a calf is treated with antibiotics, that animal is no longer considered organic.

* Oxytocin & Ivermectin – (nothing further on this yet, on LC workplan).

c. Handling Committee – JW

* HC has had 2 calls since last EC call; Non-syn/Syn and Ag /Non-ag will be done in conjunction with Materials committee. DG and JW will discuss getting started off-line.

KO: Which is a priority?

JW felt that they were equally important, but we got a lot of good feedback on Syn/Nonsyn and feel we are in a good position to move that forward.

DG requested that others send him any other comments or drafts that he needs to see. BJ worked on "next steps" document and will send to DG. JW and DG Will work to set up a Joint Committee in the near future. HK, GD, and NO are the other members.

* Colors – deferred vote and new petitions – Colors were deferred at April meeting and will draft a recommendation for a non-renewal of colors at October meeting. KO asked if colors could be given an extension for 12 months until petitions are brought forward. JW stated there are some interesting justifications. VF will check in with MB regarding this.

* Pet Food Task Force – a lot of activity –The TF is concerned that they have received no public comments on their interim draft of their report, NOP sent out an email to all certifiers requesting their comments by September 1st, MB will be addressing the Association of American Feed Control Professionals (AAFCO) at their Annual Meeting in early August, and the Task Force is really hoping for

some comments that they can incorporate into their report. VF working with them to get their final report submitted in time for October meeting.

* Commercial Availability of 606 items – working on new draft of commercial availability incorporating NOP feedback towards an expanded recommendation at the October 2006 meeting. JW hopes to have a completed draft at next meeting to help petition process along. VF sent KO the color petition for 606 as an example although it is not a good example.

* Petitioned Materials – more to come after future meetings

d. **Materials Committee** – NO/DG

DG will follow up and get assistance with getting started Syn/NonSyn recommendation

e. **Policy Development Committee** – RD - BJ reported as Vice-Chair

BJ noted that KO's workplan did not include work activities and RD's items presented in April meeting. There have been no committee calls and BJ has not been able to reach him.

* Board Policy Manual updates/revisions – BJ will organize call if RD does not respond.

* New member guide – BJ showed original draft of new member guide to some of the new members and they wondered why were never provided with it. BJ wanted to try again. MB's feedback was that document was duplicative of the Board Policy Manual and big. Agreed to it being revamped with supervision by program. BJ will work with VF.

f. **Compliance, Accreditation & Certification** – AC - JW reported

There was a call 2 weeks ago that JS, who is Vice-Chair, was not there for. AC will have good updates at next call. Work items have been delegated to committee members - Retailer/Private Label Question, Recommendation regarding certificate format, and Peer review.

7. October Meeting - Need to set up a call with officers and program to work out next meeting. MB would like a meeting in the Pacific Northwest in Spring – either Portland and Seattle. DG reported that Seattle was easy. Goldie has offered to help. BJ is from Portland and would provide advice. MB will have to do a cost comparison and airfare will weigh heavily in cost.

8. Other business - none

9. Adjourn JW 1st, ML 2nd, All